

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A process for improving the storage stability of an aqueous dispersion of particles ~~composed of~~ comprising addition polymer and finely divided inorganic solid (composite particles), the process comprising:

adding a hydroxyl-containing alkylamino compound to an aqueous dispersion medium wherein before, during or after [[the]] preparation of the composite particles in dispersion in the aqueous medium (aqueous composite-particle dispersion)-a hydroxyl-containing alkylamino compound is added to the aqueous dispersion medium, wherein the composite particles have a diameter of more than 10 nm to 1000 nm.

Claim 2 (Original): The process according to claim 1, wherein the hydroxyl-containing alkylamino compound is added to the aqueous dispersion medium of the aqueous composite-particle dispersion after its preparation.

Claim 3 (Previously Presented): The process according to claim 1, wherein the aqueous composite-particle dispersion containing a hydroxyl-containing alkylamino compound has a pH  $\geq 7$  and  $\leq 11$ .

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): The process according to claim 1, wherein [[as]] the hydroxyl-containing alkylamino compound is an acyclic alkyl compound having at least 3 carbon atoms and at least one hydroxyl and one amino group-is used.

Claim 5 (Previously Presented): The process according to claim 1, wherein the alkylamino compound is a primary amine.

Claim 6 (Previously Presented): The process according to claim 1, wherein the hydroxyl-containing alkylamino compound is an acyclic alkyl compound having at least 3 carbon atoms which contains at least one hydroxyl group and at least one primary amino group.

Claim 7 (Previously Presented): The process according to claim 1, wherein the amount of the hydroxyl-containing amino compound is from 0.01 to 10% by weight, based on the total amount of the aqueous composite-particle dispersion.

Claim 8 (Previously Presented): The process according to claim 1, wherein the aqueous composite-particle dispersion has been prepared by a process in which at least one ethylenically unsaturated monomer is dispersely distributed in aqueous medium and is polymerized by the method of free-radical aqueous emulsion polymerization by means of at least one free-radical polymerization initiator in the presence of at least one dispersely distributed, finely divided inorganic solid and at least one dispersant, where

- a) a stable aqueous dispersion of said at least one inorganic solid is used, said dispersion having the characteristic features that at an initial solids concentration of  $\geq 1\%$  by weight, based on the aqueous dispersion of said at least one inorganic solid, it still contains in dispersed form one hour after its preparation more than 90% by weight of the originally dispersed solid and its dispersed solid particles have a weight-average diameter  $\leq 100$  nm,
- b) the dispersed particles of said at least one inorganic solid exhibit a nonzero electrophoretic mobility in an aqueous standard potassium chloride solution at a pH which corresponds to the pH of the aqueous dispersion medium before the beginning of dispersant addition,
- c) at least one anionic, cationic and nonionic dispersant is added to the aqueous solid-particle dispersion before the beginning of the addition of said at least one ethylenically unsaturated monomer,
- d) then from 0.01 to 30% by weight of the total amount of said at least one monomer are added to the aqueous solid-particle dispersion and polymerized to a conversion of at least 90%,  
and
- e) thereafter the remainder of said at least one monomer is added under polymerization conditions continuously at the rate at which it is consumed.

Claim 9 (Previously Presented): The process according to claim 8, wherein the finely divided inorganic solid is a silicon compound.

Claim 10 (Original): The process according to claim 9, wherein the finely divided inorganic solid is pyrogenic and/or colloidal silica and/or a phyllosilicate.

Claim 11 (Previously Presented): The process according to claim 1, wherein the hydroxyl-containing amino compound is a compound selected from the group consisting of 2-amino-2-methylethanol, 2-amino-2,2-dimethylethanol, 3-aminopropan-1-ol, 3-aminopropan-2-ol, 3-aminopropane-1,2-diol, 2-amino-2-methylpropane-1,3-diol, 4-aminobutan-1-ol, 2-aminobutan-1-ol, 2-amino-3-methylbutan-1-ol, 5-aminopentan-1-ol, 2-(2-aminoethoxy)ethanol, 6-aminohexan-1-ol and 7-aminoheptan-1-ol.

Claim 12 (Currently Amended): An aqueous composite-particle dispersion ~~obtainable~~ obtained by ~~[[a]]~~ the process according to claim 1.

Claim 13 (Original): An aqueous coating composition comprising an aqueous composite-particle dispersion according to claim 12.

Claim 14 (Currently Amended): ~~[[The]]~~ A method of using an aqueous composite-particle dispersion according to claim 12 for preparing aqueous coating compositions.

Claim 15 (Original): A process for improving the storage stability of an aqueous formulation comprising at least one aqueous composite-particle dispersion, wherein before, during or after the preparation of the aqueous formulation a hydroxyl-containing alkylamino compound is added to the aqueous formulation medium.

Claim 16 (New): The process according to claim 1, wherein the composite particles have a diameter of more than 10 nm to 500 nm.

Claim 17 (New): The process according to claim 1, wherein the composite particles have a diameter of more than 10 nm to 250 nm.

Claim 18 (New): The process according to claim 1, wherein the hydroxyl-containing alkylamino compound is added in an amount of 0.01 to 10% by weight, based on the total amount of the aqueous composite-particle dispersion.

Claim 19 (New): The process according to claim 1, wherein the hydroxyl-containing alkylamino compound is added in an amount of 0.05 to 5% by weight, based on the total amount of the aqueous composite-particle dispersion.

Claim 20 (New): The process according to claim 1, wherein the hydroxyl-containing alkylamino compound is added in an amount of 0.1 to 3% by weight, based on the total amount of the aqueous composite-particle dispersion.